

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 ACDA-05 /075 W

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R 071818Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3457

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16481

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR WB GE US UK FR GW

SUBJECT: INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS: TELTOW CANAL

REFS: (A) STATE 236433; (B) BONN 16284

SUMMARY. BEFORE AGREEING THAT THE SENAT MAY OPEN TALKS WITH THE GDR ON TELTOW, THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THE FRG MUST INFORM THE ALLIES OFFICIALLY THAT GAUS HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE GDR THE LIMITATIONS ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE SENAT. HAVING MADE THE INSTRUCTED BILATERAL DEMARCHE TO THE FRENCH, WE BELIEVE IT NOW PREFERABLE TO ALLOW THE GERMANS AND THE FRENCH TO SORT THIS OUT BETWEEN THEMSELVES. THE US POSITION IS CLEAR BOTH TO THE SENAT AND TO THE FRG. END SUMMARY.

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL (A), EMBOFFS MET WITH FRENCH BONN GROUP REP (BOISSIEU) OCTOBER 6 TO TRY TO PERSUADE HIM TO LIFT FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO OPENING OF SENAT-GDR TECHNICAL TALKS. IN ADDITION TO ARGUMENTS IN REFTEL, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE POINTED OUT (A) THAT IN INSISTING ON KNOWING THE

RESULTS OF THE GAUS-SCHLIMPER TALKS BEFORE PERMITTING  
THE SENAT TO EXERCISE THE MANDATE GIVEN IT IN BK/L  
(75) 31, THE FRENCH APPEARED TO BE ADDING NEW  
CONDITIONS; (B) THAT WE SAW NO HARM IN LETTING THE  
SENAT TEST THE WATER, GIVEN THE BUILT-IN ALLIED CONTROLS  
OVER PREVENTING THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM GETTING OUT OF  
HAND; AND (C) THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SHIFT THE  
IRE OF THE SENAT FROM THE ALLIES TO THE GDR, IF INITIAL  
CONTACT SHOWED THAT THE GDR WAS UNWILLING TO  
NEGOTIATE WITH THE SENAT ONLY ON TECHNICAL MATTERS.

2. BOISSIEU DISPUTED OUR CONTENTION THAT THE FRENCH  
WERE ADDING A NEW CONDITION TO THE MANDATE, INSISTING  
THAT, WHEN THE ALLIES IN JUNE OBTAINED AN FRG COMMIT-  
MENT THAT GAUS WOULD INFORM THE GDR OF THE LIMITS TO THE  
NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY OF THE SENAT, IT WAS IMPLICIT  
THAT THE FRG WOULD INFORM THE ALLIES OF THE GDR  
REACTION. AS FOR OUR CONTENTION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO  
HARM IN INITIAL SENAT-GDR CONTACTS, BOISSIEU SAID HE  
FORESAW A SITUATION IN WHICH THE GDR WOULD STRING THE  
SENAT ALONG FOR SIX MONTHS OR SO, GRADUALLY WORKING OUT  
A NEGOTIATED PACKAGE WHICH WOULD THEN BE PRESENTED TO  
THE ALLIES AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. AS FOR OUR FINAL  
ARGUMENT, BOISSIEU COMMENTED THAT SENAT ANNOYANCE WAS  
DIRECTED NOT AT THE ALLIES BUT AT THE FRENCH, AND HE  
APPEARED UNCONCERNED.

3. BOISSIEU ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IT IS ONLY THE SENAT  
AND NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH IS PRESSING THE  
ALLIES. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A FOREIGN OFFICE  
SOURCE THAT FONMIN GENSCHER HIMSELF AGREED THAT IT  
WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE FOR THE PROPOSED SENAT-GDR TALKS  
TO START ON OCTOBER 8. THIS SAME SOURCE HAD DENIED  
TO BOISSIEU THE STATEMENT MADE BY SENAT CHANCELLERY  
CHIEF HERZ TO ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS (USBER 1988) THAT  
THE FRG HAD LINKED AGREEMENT ON REOPENING THE TELTOW  
CANAL TO THE ANNUAL LUMP SUM PAYMENT AGREEMENT. THE  
FRENCH HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE FRG ITSELF ATTACHES VERY  
LITTLE PRIORITY TO THE TELTOW CANAL AND DOES NOT INTEND  
TO EXPEND ANY POLITICAL CAPITAL ON IT. THEY ARE THERE-  
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FORE PREPARED TO SIT TIGHT UNTIL THE FRG COMES TO THE  
ALLIES AND CONFIRMS THAT GAUS HAS, AS PROMISED, INFORMED  
THE GDR OF ITS INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE THE TRANSIT  
REGIME FOR THE CANAL AND OF THE LIMITATIONS ON THE  
SENAT'S AUTHORITY. SHOULD THE FRG CONFIRM OUR  
SUSPICIONS THAT THE GDR HAS REJECTED THIS SCENARIO, BUT  
TELL US THAT THE FRG NEVERTHELESS BELIEVES IT IS WORTH  
TESTING THE FIRMNESS OF THE GDR POSITION BY ATTEMPTING

TO LAUNCH EXPLORATORY TECHNICAL TALKS AT THE SENAT-GDR LEVEL, THE ALLIES WOULD BE FACED WITH A NEW SITUATION TO BE CONSIDERED AT THAT TIME.

4. AT THE OCTOBER 6 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP (LUECKING) HAD STATED THAT AN INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 16481

WOULD BE HELD IN BONN OCTOBER 7 TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO BRIEF THE ALLIES MORE FULLY AT THE OCTOBER 9 BONN GROUP MEETING ON THE STATUS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. BOISSIEU STATED THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT LIFT THEIR HOLD ON THE TELTOW TALKS UNTIL AFTER THAT MEETING, AT WHICH IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT WE WOULD RECEIVE FULLER INFORMATION ON THE GAUS-SCHLIMPER DISCUSSION OF TELTOW.

5. COMMENT: BOISSIEU IS CORRECT IN POINTING OUT THAT  
THERE IS AT PRESENT ABSOLUTELY NO PRESSURE FROM THE FRG  
ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, AS WE  
ARGUED TO BOISSIEU,, THAT THE CONTROLS  
BUILT INTO BK/L (75) 31 ARE SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT  
ALLIED INTERESTS AND REGRET OUR INABILITY TO PERSUADE  
HIM, WE DOUBT THAT THERE IS ANY US INTEREST IN  
CONTINUING TO WORK BILATERALLY ON THE FRENCH. IT HAS  
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BEEN CLEAR ALL ALONG, BOTH TO THE SENAT AND TO THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THAT THE DELAY IS NOT AN ALLIED  
PROBLEM BUT STRICTLY A FRENCH ONE. WE BELIEVE IT  
PREFERABLE AT THIS POINT TO ALLOW THE FRENCH AND THE  
GERMANS TO TRY TO SORT IT OUT BETWEEN THEMSELVES.  
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## Message Attributes

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